



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

May 9, 2005

Mr. Rob Newman
Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

Dear Mr. Newman:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Lower Colorado River Basin, Colorado River, Texas. This Programmatic DEIS focuses on various potential U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration measures including potential projects that are being investigated as part of the Lower Colorado River Basin Study.

The following comment is offered for consideration in developing the Programmatic Final EIS (FEIS):

On page 3-11 of the DEIS regarding air quality assessment, EPA suggests that the 3rd paragraph be deleted. The statement should be made that EPA plans to revoke the 1-hour standard on June 15, 2005, after which time the 8 hour standard becomes the applicable ozone standard. The FEIS should recognize that the city of Austin has signed an Early Action Compact with EPA. This action commits the city to implement emission reduction strategies designed to result in sufficient emission reductions to meet and maintain the 8-hour standard by 2007.

EPA classified your Programmatic DEIS and proposed action as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections". The DEIS is consistent with the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA. The DEIS defines the baseline conditions on the human and natural environment within the basin, examines past actions by the Corps of Engineers, and other entities, within the study area, and then examines reasonably foreseeable alternatives of the Corp of Engineers and of others that could affect water and related land use. The DEIS recognizes that any future projects will require additional NEPA evaluation and those projects-specific documents will be tiered to the Programmatic FEIS.

Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility

under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at 214-665-7451 or by e-mail at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Rhonda M. Smith
Acting Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination